to monitor the functioning of memoranda of understanding with the public sector units; and

(c) whether such memoranda are proposed to be signed with the remaining public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) The basic objective of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) is to ensure greater functional autonomy in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) commensurate with accountability. By signing MOUs. the Public Sector Enterprises know at the beginning of the year what they are expected to do and they are judged only on the basis of the pre-agreed set of criteria which is to be included in their respective MOUs. The MOU also enables the Government to compare performance of these enterprises and thereby induce competitiveness among them.

(b) The performance of these Public Sector Enterprises have improved. The net profit of the MOU signing Public Sector Enterprises increased from Rs. 1991.78 crs. in 1987-88 to Rs. 2480.61 crs. in 1988-89, the latest year for which audited figures are available. The MOU is approved and evaluated by a High Power Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary. An Ad-hoc Task Force of experts assist this Committee. The Department of Public Enterprises coordinates all these activities Regular monitoring is being done by the respective administrative Ministries.

(c) It is proposed to add about 100 more Public Sector Enterprises to the list of those signing MOU next year i.e. 1991-92.

Pollution of Damodar River

1476. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has sent an SOS to the Central Government about the alarming pollution of Damodar river rendering the command area water of DVC unfit for human consumption and for agricultural use;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check the pollution of Damodar river?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILMANI ROUTRAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken include:

(i) Industries located on the banks of the Damodar or in its vicinity have been directed to instal] effluent treatment plants within a time-frame and to treat their effluents to prescribed standards before discharge into the river.

(iii) Task forces have been set up to to operate subject to their adopting adequate pollution control measures.

(iii) Task force have been set up to oversee the progress made by industries in putting up pollution control devices.

(iv) Regular monitoring of the river water quality is being done.

(v) Prosecutions are launched against the major defaulting units.

विश्वविद्यालयों, महाविद्यालयों तथा विभिन्न विषयों के विभागों को स्वायत्तता

1477. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कितने विश्वविद्यालयों, महाविद्यालयों या विभिन्न विषयों के विभागों द्वारा स्वायत्तता की मांग भारत सरकार से की गई है ;

(ख) इनमें से अब तक कितनी संस्थाओं को स्वायत्तता प्रदान की गई है ;

(ग) कितनी संस्थाओं की स्वायत्तता की मांग अस्वीकार कर दी गई है;